through serial I/O **131** to terminal **1**. In terminal **1**, when the coincidence signal is received by serial I/O **114**, it is given to control section **118**. As a result, it is confirmed that the PIN preliminarily written in IC card **5** and the PIN input from terminal **1** are identical, that is, YES is yielded step A1 (FIG. **19**). Then, the routine goes to step A2. In step A2 the contents of registers **112** and **115** are cleared by the initialization signal supplied from control section **118**. The routine then goes to step A3, in which register **112** is set to the write mode by read/write control signal **120** supplied from control section **118**.

In this state, the IC card holder inputs a new PIN from input section **111** to alter the PIN data. The routine then goes to step A4, in which the PIN is written in register **112**. In this case, the number of digits of the new PIN is counted by counter **110**, and this number is displayed by digit number display section **126A** in display section **126**, not in numerals, but in symbols, such as " *" for the first digit, " **" for the first two digits, and so forth. This eliminates the possibility that any other person can see the PIN, which is a numerical code.

The routine then goes to step A5. In step A5, upon inputting all data into input section **111**, that is, when the YES key on keyboard **2** of terminal **1** is pushed, an input end signal **127** is provided from input section **111**. As a result, counter **110** is stopped, and the internal count is reset. Also, control section **118** causes the next operation.

Then, step A6 is executed, in which registers **112** and **115** are set to the read-out mode by read/write control signals **120** and **121** supplied from control section **118**. Further, the data stored in registers **112** and **115** is supplied through select signals **122** and **123** to distributors **113** and **117**. In this state, the pieces of data stored in registers **112** and **115** are compared by comparator **114**. Since in the content of register **115** has been cleared by the first input PIN, non-coincidence is detected. The routine goes to step A7. In step A7, the non-coincidence output of comparator **114** is supplied to data selector **124**. Data selector **124** selects from display data memory **125** a message instructing the card holder to input PIN again. This message is displayed on message control section **126A**.

The routine then goes to step A8. In step A8, in response to the non-coincidence output of comparator **114**, control section **118** provides select signal **122** to data distributor **113** so that register **112** is connected to register **115**. Further, read/write control signal **121** is supplied from controller **118** to register **115**, setting register **115** to the write mode. As a result, the content of register **112** is transferred to register **115**.

In this state, the routine returns to step A3. In step A3, the PIN input afresh by the IC card holder is written in register **112**. Subsequently, the routine goes through steps A4 and A5 to step A8, whereby the pieces of data in stored registers **112** and **115** are compared. When these pieces of data coincide, the routine goes to step A9. In step A9, comparator **114** gives a coincidence signal data selector **124**. Data selector **124** selects a message, for instance, "PIN Has been Confirmed and Is being Registered," from display data memory **125**. The selected message is supplied to display section **126** and is displayed by message display section **126A**. The routine then proceeds to step A10. In step A10, the coincidence signal output by comparator **114** supplied to control section **118**, and a select signal **123** is supplied to data distributor **117**. The data stored in register **115** is thereby supplied to the IC card through serial I/O **116**.

In IC card **5**, the data is supplied through serial I/O **131**. As a result, a write control signal is supplied from write control section **137** to PIN memory **141** under control of control section **135**. Thus, the data from terminal **1** is written in PIN memory **141**, whereby the PIN alteration is completed.

While the description so far was concerned with the alteration of the PIN, the same procedure is taken in case of registration of a new PIN. More specifically, when the previously known IPIN is input from input section **111**, it is written in register **112** under the control of a command from control section **118**, to be supplied through data distributor **113** to serial I/O **116** and thence supplied to IC card **5**. In IC card **5**, when the data is supplied through serial I/O **131** shown in FIG. **18**, it is latched in data latch section **136** under the control of a command from control section **135**, and is compared with the IPIN written in IPIN memory **140**. When the compared IPIN's coincide, a coincidence signal is supplied to control section **135**, and the PIN data is supplied through serial I/O **131** to the terminal under the command of control section **135**. In terminal **1**, the coincidence signal is received in serial I/O **116** and is supplied to control section **118**. As a result, it is confirmed that the PIN preliminarily written in IC card **5** and IPIN input from the terminal are identical. Hence, it becomes possible to input the "PIN". Thereafter, the PIN is input twice, as in re-registering the PIN.

As has been shown in the above embodiment, not only registration of a new PIN but also the alteration of the PIN is possible. In these two registrations, the PIN is input twice to permit registration. Thus, it is possible to prevent the inputting of a wrong PIN, ensuring a reliable and correct registration of the PIN in IC card **5**. Further, since the input PIN is not displayed in numerals on the display section, but in symbols, there is no read-out of the PIN visible to another nearby person. Total security can thus be ensured.

The above embodiment is by no means limitative. Various changes and modifications are possible without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. For example, the PIN can be input more than twice. Further, the invention is applicable not only to the registration of a PIN in the IC card but also to registration of other data.

Advantages of the Second Embodiment

With the second embodiment of the IC card system, the PIN is input at least twice from the terminal, and these PIN's are stored in separate memory means. The pieces of data in these memory means are compared. When they are identical, the PIN is registered in the IC card.

Thus, with the second embodiment it is possible to ensure an accurate registration of the PIN in the IC card by the IC card holder. In addition, the alteration of the PIN becomes possible when predetermined conditions are met. It is thus possible to reliably prohibit any subsequent use of the IC card. This improves the security of the system.

What is claimed is:

1. A customer service system for use in an IC card system comprising:

a customer's IC card including at least an IC circuit having first memory means for storing the personal